



Washington University in St. Louis

ARTS & SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

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To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Reptilian Genomics Working Group, I am pleased to submit a White Paper proposing genome sequencing of reptiles. We specifically propose 6x sequencing of the Green Anole lizard, *Anolis carolinensis*, and low coverage sequencing of the American Alligator.

The Ad Hoc Reptilian Genomics Working Group—including representatives of the genomics, evolutionary biology, and herpetology communities—met in Saint Louis in April to discuss the desirability of sequencing the genome of reptiles and to prioritize the order in which different reptile groups should be sequenced.

To solicit input from the scientific community, the Working Group posted a summary of the meeting and its recommendations on a website, www.reptilegenome.com. The existence of this website was widely advertised on electronic bulletin boards and by word of mouth. By the deadline two weeks later, 105 comments had been received; 104 respondents approved of the Working Group's framework, and by a margin of 2:1, the respondents favored the green anole over the garter snake as the top priority for genome sequencing. The Working Group's activities were also presented at the meeting in June of the Society for the Study of Evolution, where the response was also positive.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need any further information.

Sincerely,

Jonathan B. Losos
Professor